

A COMPOSITION FOR THE DELIVERY OF LIVE CELLS AND METHODS OF  
USE THEREOF

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           The invention relates to an improved method for administering live cells to a patient and compositions useful in the method. The composition comprises live cells and biocompatible, biodegradable polymer microparticles. The cells and microparticles of the cell/microparticle composition can be contacted immediately prior to administration, or can be contacted in culture for a specified period of time prior to  
10 administration. In the method of the invention, an effective amount of the cell/microparticle composition is administered to a patient in need thereof by injection to a treatment site of the patient to provide a therapeutic effect in the patient. The therapeutic effect can be, for example, the formation of new tissue at the treatment site, or the production and secretion of a biologically active secretory molecule at the  
15 treatment site. The therapeutic effect resulting from injection of the cell/microparticle composition into a treatment site, is determined by the type of cell present in the composition. The composition comprising live cells and biocompatible, biodegradable polymer microparticles can further comprise a biologically active agent. In a preferred embodiment, the biologically active agent is incorporated into the microparticle. The  
20 biologically active agent can be, for example, factors which modulate cell growth.